

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Official Action objected to the title of the invention.

The title of the invention has been amended responsive to this objection. Should the amended title not be acceptable, it is requested that an acceptable title be suggested.

Claims 3-4 were rejected under §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not described in the specification so as to be enabled.

Applicant notes that claim 4 depends from claim 2. Accordingly, it is believed that this rejection only pertains to claim 3. Claim 3 has been amended so as to remedy the stated basis of rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §112, first paragraph rejection is solicited.

The Official Action states that claims 4-5 are rejected under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. It appears that this rejection is intended to apply to claim 3.

Claim 3 has been amended so as to remedy the stated basis of rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is also solicited.

As to these two rejections, applicant provides the further remarks.

The specification makes clear what the sample and hold circuit is doing. In line 13 on page 11 through in line 8 on page 14 of the specification, there is the detailed description corresponding to the definition "said sample hold circuit outputs, during the period of applying of the second light beam, the read signals input during the period while holding the same, and outputs, during the period of applying of the first light beam, the read signals held during the applying of the second light beam" in claim 3.

As clearly described in line 13 on page 11 to line 8 on page 12 and Figure 4, a switch 10a of a sample hold circuit 1 is held closed while a sample pulse signal Sh is on an H level during a sampling period. During this period, four signals are output through each operational amplifier 10b. Further, each hold capacitor 10c is charged to a voltage equal to a voltage of read signals based on the reproduction power while the sample pulse signal Sh is on the H level. On the other hand, a hold capacitor 10c maintains the voltage while the sample pulse signal Sh is on an L level.

Then, the sample pulse signal Sh becomes an H level during a space period when a light beam having a reproducing power. The reproducing power corresponds to "the second light beam" in claim 3. Therefore, "said sample hold circuit outputs, during the period of applying of the second light beam, the read signals input during the period while holding the same," in claim

3 is described in line 13 on page 11 to line 8 on page 12 and FIG. 4. Further, " and outputs, during the period of applying of the first light beam, the read signals held during the applying of the second light beam" in claim 3" in claim 3 is also described in line 13 on page 11 to line 8 on page 12 and Figure 4.

In addition, in line 8 on page 13 through line 8 on page 14, the above functions of the sample hold circuit are described in detail again.

Accordingly, the rejection under §112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected as anticipated by KURODA et al. 6,181,657.

Applicant believes that a closer reading of this reference will see that the reference does not disclose that which is recited.

In KURODA et al., a noise cancel signal is produced, so that it is subtracted from a pre-pit signal $(A+B)-(C+D)$ to cancel noises caused by an information signal to written on a groove (please see lines 35-64, column 7).

This cancel signal is produced by producing a delay signal shortened by time t at the rear (please see lines 14-18, col. 8). Therefore, KURODA et al. does not detect a pre-pit signal from only the read signals input during the period of applying of the second light beam. That is, KURODA et al. does

not disclose a pre-pit signal detecting device defined in claim 1. KURODA et al. merely discloses a circuit in which the noise cancel signal is necessary. However, in the present invention (see the last part of claim 1) a pre-pit signal detecting device detects a pre-pit signal from only the read signals input during the period of applying of the second light beam, so that the noise cancel signal is not necessary.

Consequently, the recitations of claim 1 are not anticipated and the rejection under §102(e) should be withdrawn.

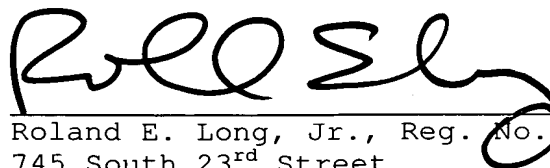
In view of the above, applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

Should there be any remaining questions outstanding, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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